



Rev. James Edward "Smitty" Smith

DEC 10, 1954 - NOV 13, 2023



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Rev. James Edward "Smitty" Smith

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Rev. James Edward 'Smitty' Smith began his life on December 10, 1954 as the fifth of six children born to the parentage of George 'Boots' Smith, Jr. and Lillie Mae (Thomas) Smith in Hope, Arkansas. Blessed from birth with a twinkle in his eye and a charming smile, James' infectious laughter and ability to find humor in any situation endeared him to everyone he met.

James spent all of childhood in Hope, AR and matriculated through the Hope school system. It was there in 1966, that James and his younger brother, Jimmy, were selected to integrate Hope primary schools before school integration was federally mandated in Arkansas. This experience helped James develop an unshakable will and ability to persevere over adversity. After graduating from Hope High School in 1972, James moved to Dallas, TX and began the next phase of his life.

In 1976, James earned two associate degrees in business from Mountain View College after receiving a loving nudge from his brother, Dr. Roscoe. A short time after his graduation, James joined his sister, Gwendolyn, working for Braniff Airlines. It was during this time that James met the woman that was destined to become his wife of 45 years, Tyrus (English). The two were introduced by his sister-in-law, Dr. Velma in 1977 and later married on August 12, 1978. After weathering the dissolution of Braniff Airlines in 1982, the couple learned that they were expecting their only child, Kendra Charisse. James loved being a father and would tell anyone who would listen, all the latest events in Kendra's life. In his words, he was "hyena happy, hog wild, & peacock proud" of his baby girl.

A stalwart in his faith, James loved the Lord. He & Tyrus joined Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF) Church in 1999. James held many positions within the church



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over the years, including hosting and facilitating the church's 1st Barbershop Ministry in 2013. His most recent assignment was serving as the fearless leader of OCBF's Fight Night Prayer Team 6. Working with this ministry allowed James to touch countless lives and leave a permanent mark on his community.

In 1983, James joined IBM and proudly worked his way up the ranks to become the Dallas Area Facility Operation Manager. His work at IBM was very fulfilling and allowed him to enjoy a 30-year career with the company. James simultaneously enjoyed a long spanning career as a master barber. After watching his eldest brother, Rev. R.D., a licensed Texas barber, and receiving encouragement from his brother-in-law, Julius Elliby, James elected to attend South Dallas' Graham's Barber College in 1972. Upon graduation, he worked part-time at the Polk Village Barber Shop with brothers Ray & Eddie Shufford. In 1990, James and his niece, Jacquelyn, opened James and Jackie's Unisex (which later became Smitty's Unisex) in Oak Cliff. In the early 2000s, James moved his barber business to the Lancaster-Kiest Barber Shop. James followed in the footsteps of his mentor, Johnny Crawford, and joined the Texas Association of Tonsorial Artists (TAOTA) (a professional organization for Black barbers with a mission to raise the standards of the barbering profession) in 1983. James served as the Dallas Chapter President from 1985 – 1997 and was Chairman of the Board from 1988 - 1997. In 1997, he became the 7th Statewide President of TAOTA serving until 2015.

Perhaps because of his megawatt smile, James was known as the life of the party. People gravitated to him, and his presence added warmth to every interaction. His zest for life was legendary and carried over to every person he encountered. James was also affectionately known as the 'King of Selfies'. He never met a camera he didn't like and could always be counted on to snap a picture. He also took on the role of Smith/English Family historian where he captured memorable family moments filled with joy and love. (Except for that first trip to Northern California where he served as the cameraman but forgot the film!)



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James loved with his whole heart and was loved fiercely in return. He was called from labor to reward on Monday, November 13, 2023. Left to treasure his memory are: his wife Tyrus (Annona), daughter Kendra Charisse (Dallas). James also leaves his sister, Gwendolyn Elliby (Arlington); and three brothers: Dr. Roscoe C. Smith (Arlington), George Smith, III (Judy) (Cedar Hill); Jimmy C. Smith (Hope, AR). A host of nieces, nephews, and cousins will all remember his love, generosity, and encouragement.

James was preceded in death by his mother, father, his eldest brother, Rev. Robert Dean "RD" Smith, great-nephew, Cecil Smith, niece, Gwendolyn Roshelle Smith; sister-in-love, Dr. Velma Prince Smith; brother-in-love, Julius Othello Elliby.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.



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With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalm 91





Events


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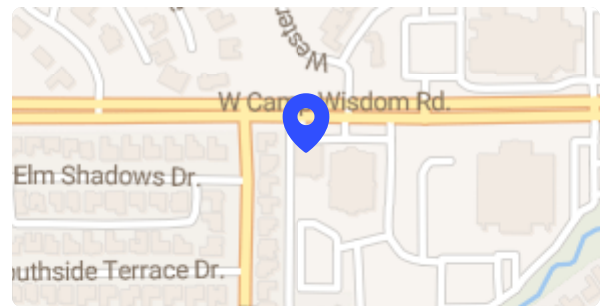
Celebration of Life

 **Monday**, November 27, 2023

 11:00 AM CT

 **Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship**
1808 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas TX 75232

- Please consider a financial contribution in lieu of flowers and plants: Gift cards Zelle: (214)543-9066 PayPal: kendora05@yahoo.com Venmo: <https://venmo.com/u/Kendra-Smith-40>





Tribute Wall

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GO

Gary Myles (Prayer Team 6, Ocbf) lit a candle in honor of James.



November 27 at 12:01 PM

DE

Deborah Fry posted:

Smitty was a wonderful and beautiful man. He gave my son Camden Fry his 1st hair he is now 35yrs old. He cut the whole family John, Jayvan and many others. My granddaughter Emani couldn't wait to see him on Saturday morning. They were born on the same day she will be 14 teen this year He always supported everything they where in. We all will really miss him and we missed him when he was sick. You all still have all the Prayers, Love and well wishing. We know God has given him his Golden Crown and Manison in the sky. Deborah and John Fry

November 25 at 10:26 PM

BT

Bro. Roddie & Sis. Patrice Thomas shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We were sadden to receive the news or our Big brother James Smitty Smith transition he's heaven bound to be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD. Big Brother Smitty loved the LORD, and his Beautiful beloved wife Sis. Tyrus his loving daughter Kendra his Family & Friends. Bro Smitty he had such a encouraging, loving, and comfoting spirit. He attended our Father Bro. Deacon John E. Fields and our son Narlin J. Montgomery Home going Celebration Services and we are eternally grateful. Sis. Clara Fields, Narlin parents Bro. Roddie & Sis. Patrice Thomas our daughter Latrice known as Tece sends our Sincere love and prayers.



November 16 at 1:37 PM



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Peggy Washington Young lit a candle in honor of James.

My deepest sympathies, to my high school classmate of 72' and childhood neighbors, on N. Berry & Graham Sts, in Hope AR. James, his cousin, Beverly Ann and I, shared birthdays back to back, his being on the 10th and Bev & I, on the 9th of Dec!!! He will always be remembered, on our special days!!!



November 24 at 4:36 PM

AD **Allen R. Sullivan, Ph.D** November 30 at 9:55 AM

Our condolences & Love to our adopted family who hosted hosted us on occasions and holidays for 48 years giving us the pleasure of enjoying The infectious humor and smile of James. My he Rest In Peace till we meet again in That Great Gettin Up Morning- The Sullivan's Allen, Debbie, Raylene, & Reggie of WT White Football Team

ET **Erma Turner** November 26 at 1:51 PM

My condolences to the family of James (Smitty) may God grant you peace and comfort in this time of sorrow 🙏 my God bless you all ❤️



Louis Butler posted:

I wake up daily, with my Brother James Smith on my mind—so many days. when I could speak with him. I would call him just for a few words of wisdom. he was always there for me. if he didn't know the answer, he would seek it out for me. I was always better off once he was finished with me. thank God for putting such a person as Brother James Smith in my Life. I miss him so much. Louis Butler brother in Love

November 24 at 6:45 AM



Deacon Donnie & Sharyn Lansgton lit a candle in honor of James.



November 24 at 5:05 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Smith family.



November 24 at 5:03 AM



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Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Smith family.



November 23 at 8:34 AM



Ethel Curtis posted:

All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏 I met Rev. James in 2014 when I joined the OCBF Prayer Ministry. We later became classmates in OCBF Leadership. He always had a smile on his face, and always had a word of encouragement. He will truly be missed. See you later Rev. James "Smitty" Smith! 😊🙏😊

November 22 at 6:58 AM



Ngyhia Randle posted:

My heartfelt condolences to the Smith family. James was a good man and was always there to support others when they experienced hardships. James supported me when I lost my mother and while the grief was overwhelming, his kindness was a balm to my soul. May you find some solace in knowing James was a man of God and will certainly be with our Lord in Heaven. Rest well Smitty. You deserve it.

November 21 at 1:20 AM



Jacob Lajuwomi November 23 at 9:52 AM

My heartfelt condolences to the Smith family. Minister James Smith was a Soldier in the Army of the Lord. Since I meet him via men Bible and breakfast group, he has been an encourager. His love for the Lord and the brotherhood is manifested in his passionate admonitions and prayers. My prayer for the family during this time is for special grace, comfort and serenity from the throne of grace.



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Regina posted:

I extend my deepest condolences to the Smith family. I met Rev. Smith last year in 2022 when I was conducting research about Tyler Barber College Chain, the nation's first African American barber college. I am pursuing a graduate degree in African American History. It was a privilege to interview Rev. Smith about his work on behalf of Tyler Barber College Chain.

November 20 at 3:26 PM



Kendra Charisse November 21 at 6:25 PM

Oh! I will want to connect with you in the new year on your research. Dad spoke about you to me. My email is kendrasmithmba@gmail.com and number is 214-543-9066.



Kendra Charisse shared 16 photos to the **Smitty** album.



November 16 at 1:37 PM



Betty Dunbar lit a candle in honor of James.

To Tyrus and Kendra, My thoughts and prayers 🙏 are with you at this time. May God comfort and strengthen each of you. Keep your hands in God's hands and he will see you through and may the memory of your loved one "Rev James Edward "Smitty" Smith " live on in your hearts forever.



November 19 at 4:00 AM



Joyce Battee Bryant lit a candle in honor of James.



November 18 at 2:37 PM



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ES

Eve Seely shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I have too many memories to share being friends for nearly 32 years. He was someone I could always count on no matter what. He made me laugh every time I saw him. We met at IBM at Royal in Irving. He introduced me to people as his best friend, although I think everyone was his best friend. He taught me about the world of tonsorial artist and the meaning of the barber pole. He introduced me to Po Melvins and we ate there as much as we could. I still haven't tasted hot water cornbread that he told me his Mama made the best. After I left IBM, we still remained goof friends. He always had me doing graphic projects for him. I created so many awards for the T.A.O.T.A. I can't count. Along with so many tshirt designs. He even dragged me to a tshirt convention in Ft. Worth lol. After Smitty left IBM and begin his ministering, he had me creating things for that also. He gave me a lot of business with his friends like Johnny Crawford and Helen Robert's. The most treasured lesson I learned from Smitty is to be a God-fearing women. This I will caring with me until I get to see him again.

November 17 at 6:43 PM

GE

Greta Dillard Ellis posted:

Thanks Rev. Smith for being there to assist with the graveside services for my Mom Mary. Your kind and servant's heart was on full display. Kendra, I thank you and your father for the family pictures on that difficult day. I know he is resting well and I pray your heart will be comforted. Lovingly submitted Greta Dillard Ellis

November 17 at 6:36 AM

AM

Ann Murray lit a candle in honor of James.



November 16 at 10:37 PM

AM

Ann Murray posted:

Sending my warmest love and hugs. I am so sorry for your loss." "Celebrating the life of a good person and mourning their passing with you." "My sincerest condolences for you at this time.

November 16 at 10:35 PM



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Latonya sent a virtual gift in honor of James.



November 16 at 6:23 PM



Rosemary Juniel posted:

Condolences to the Smith family. We will truly miss James. He was a blessing to me and Frederick. May God's grace continue to bless you and give you the strength to get through this difficult time. Love you all.

November 16 at 1:37 PM



Gwendolyn Foster Jefferson November 28 at 6:34 PM

The Foster Family of Hope Arkansas (now residing in Dallas) extend Our Deepest Condolences to the Smith Family. God has called another Soldier home. 👤👤



Joann Johnson November 27 at 5:03 AM

My heartfelt condolences to the Smith family. So sorry for your loss. My family lived around the corner from the Smith family in Hope, Arkansas. I've known them all my life. Praying for your comfort and strength.



Minnie Bazzelle November 16 at 5:47 PM

We were very sorry to hear about about the passing. The family will be lifted up in prayer. " Be Blessed."William & Minnie Bazzelle (Wilmington, DE



Linda Williams November 16 at 3:27 PM

Condolence to the family of James.James and I grew up together in Hope, Arkansas.James was raised by his parents not wanting for anything as a kid,some people say his parents had lots of money back in the day.he always had pretty teeth and a beautiful smile,with a shy look, James loved his family and the Lord,God had plans for James as he has plans for all his children ❤️ RIP



Bobbye Richards November 16 at 2:00 PM

So sorry to hear of Smitty's passing. My prayers are with the family.Bobbye



Media

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Bro. Roddie & Sis. Patrice Thomas shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 25 at 1:45 PM





Media

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Kendra Charisse shared 16 photos to the **Smitty** album.

November 19 at 9:57 AM





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KC



ES

Eve Seely shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 17 at 6:43 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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